2: Williams E, G-5 (1923-1925) 1928
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probably useless. In the neighbourhood of Dobodura behind Buna and of Ambasi in particular, but sporadically over the whole Division, are to be seen wide stretches of grass country,[1] very beautiful with their copses and belts of wood, but at present entirely unproductive, save that they harbour a good deal of game which is hunted at the annual burning.

The climate in the Northern Division is not worse than elsewhere in Papua. The two seasons are well enough defined though the accepted names 'South-East' and 'North-West' are scarcely applicable in this part of the territory. Indeed, the interior of the forest-covered plains seems seldom visited by strong winds from any quarter, and on either side of the track high trees will stand in an almost absolute stillness. When occasionally some overhead wind swoops down, it may do so with great violence, overthrowing the shallow-rooted trees or tearing down a litter of feebly-resisting branches.

The natives call the South-East season *Tuvira*, because it is first announced by the scarlet blossoming of the *Tuvira* tree, one of many that blush unseen by an unobservant European. It is a season of comparatively dry clear weather, sometimes of drought; of many brilliant days and star-lit nights, when one may be glad of a blanket; of dry tracks and transparent, fordable streams. The North-West they call *Tuperi*. This is the time of rains and plenty. The nuts of the *Tauga*, which blossomed at the beginning of the South-East, begin to fall. The weather is more oppressive and almost every evening the thunder is rumbling in the valleys of the range. The rain comes down towards evening, there are heavy falls in the mountains, and the rivers are brown and swollen.

The river may rise with extraordinary swiftness. Splashing over a shallow bed of rocks and pebbles, or pausing in some quiet pool overhung by trees but

[1] The grass referred to (*Imperata arundinacea*) is commonly known in Papua as *Kunai*, or 'pale grass'. It is presumably identical with *alang-alang* and grows to a height of 5 feet or more.